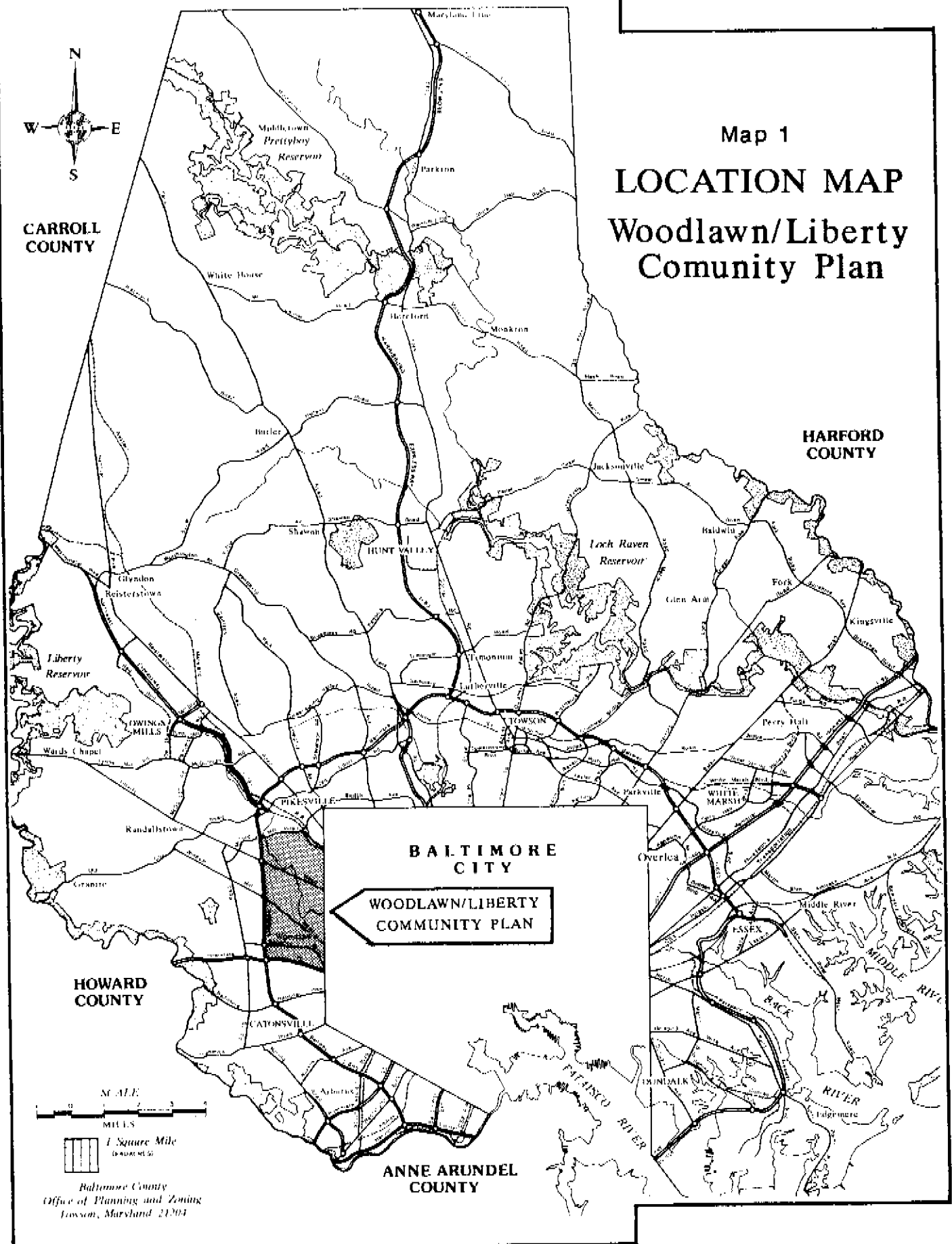


WOODLAWN/LIBERTY COMMUNITY PLAN

Map 1

LOCATION MAP
Woodlawn/Liberty
Community Plan



INTRODUCTION

Background

The 1989-2000 Master Plan for Baltimore County designated the Woodlawn/Liberty community as both an enhancement area and a community conservation area. These designations were created and designed to address the needs of changing older communities such as the Woodlawn/Liberty community. This plan area is comprised of two communities, the Woodlawn community and the East Liberty Road community. The Woodlawn community consists of the commercial core (Woodlawn Village) with its surrounding residential development. The Liberty community is a commercial corridor (commercial nodes) with its supporting residential areas.

Like many older urban communities, the Woodlawn/Liberty Plan area has experienced rapid change over the past decade, and has seen changes in both its physical and social environments. Such factors influencing this change of environment are the conversion of large portions of land to development, greater density of residential development in recent years, and changing demographics from a predominately White-American to predominately African-American community. It appears that the most pressing issues for this community are those stemming from changes in the social environment.

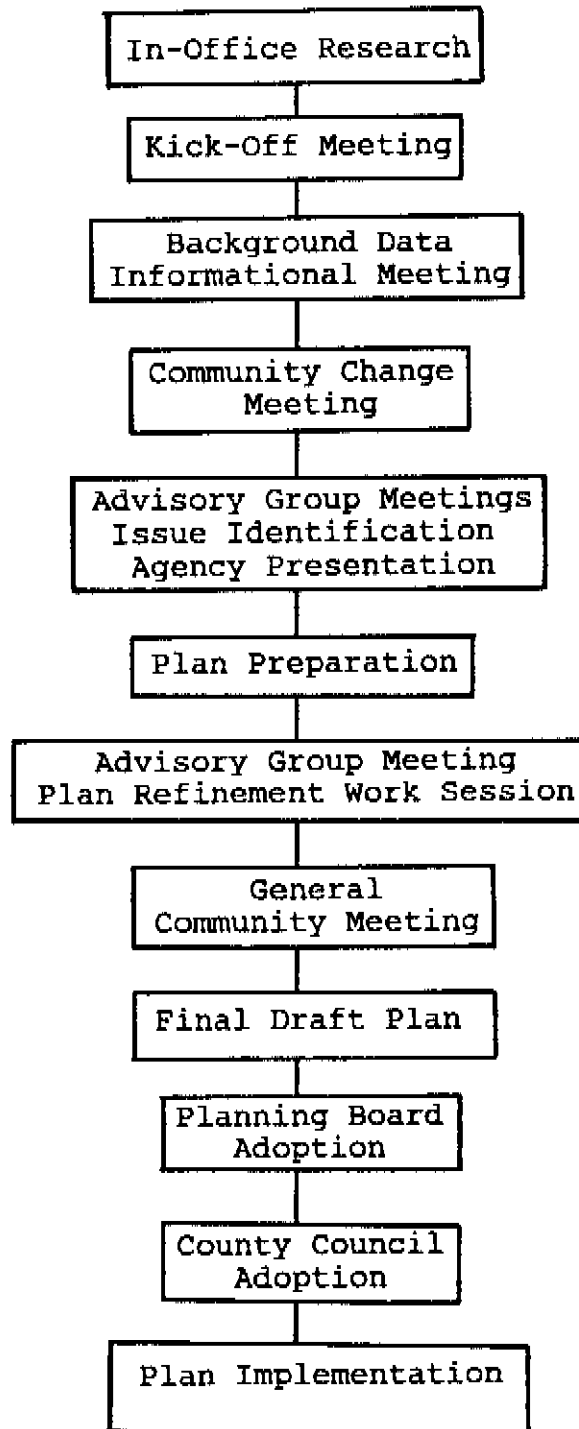
The issues identified in this plan were compiled from concerns voiced by community members at County Review Group [CRG] hearing, Community Wellness Audits, Master Plan meetings, etc. over several months. The Planning Office was careful not to create issues for the community but to work with the community in identifying issues that were of concern to them.

Process

To address these concerns, the Planning Office embarked on a planning process where community participation was the major component. An advisory group was established with representatives from the different neighborhoods. Representatives were responsible for guiding the identification of issues and actions for this plan.

The plan advisory group met the first and third Tuesday of each month from January 1990 to July 1990 at the Woodlawn Activity Center. At the onset of the process, a presentation was given to county and community representatives by academicians and professionals who deal with issues of changing neighborhoods.

COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS



Following this, a series of presentations was given to the community advisory group by various county agencies, chosen for their department's involvement in or impact on the Woodlawn/Liberty communities. The major focus of this process was to create an atmosphere where residents in the community could interact with the government agencies responsible for providing services to the neighborhoods. The advisory group, having developed and prioritized a list of issues, divided into four sub-committees. Each sub-committee developed its own working paper (education, crime and drugs, community image and land use), which have been incorporated into the plan.

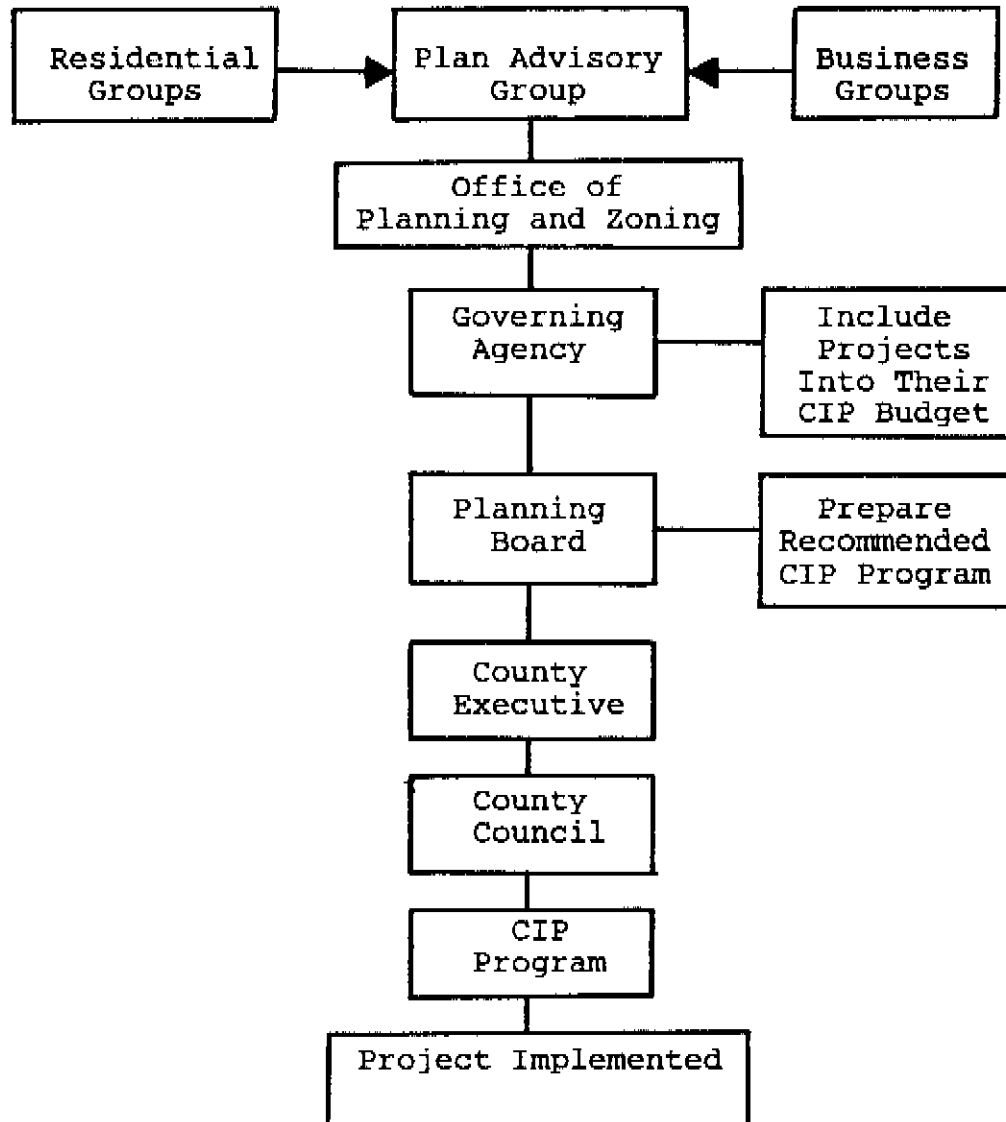
It should be stressed that this planning process has been a unique experience both for the county representatives and the community, since the foundation of the plan was built on the belief that the end product would be a plan of and for the community. The plan delved into issue areas that were new to traditional planning efforts in Baltimore County, such as human service needs, educational issues, integration and stabilization of communities, to name a few.

In the past, most planning processes that the Planning Office initiated were based upon the principle of creating a document that would be used by the community and county as an urban design or zoning tool. The Woodlawn/Liberty Community Plan is based on the concept of improving both the physical and social environment of the community.

The advisory group, which represented the community at large during this planning process, was given the opportunity to submit and react to strategies addressing the needs of their own community. The enthusiasm and creativity of this group enhanced the plan's final actions and recommendations, which are designed to reflect realistic answers to the Woodlawn/Liberty communities' critical issues for its future.

The plan's goal is to set forth potential actions that address the needs of the community. These actions and their implementation may be short term or long term in nature. The plan is designed to be implemented over time, and should be broad-based and flexible so that changing issues in the community can be reflected in the actions of the plan.

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS



Implementation

One of the most important elements of the plan is the designation of those individual and agencies responsible for its implementation. While it is the county's desire to see the plan implemented in the future, it is also the county's desire to set forth a realistic set of responsibilities for implementation for the county, the community, and other involved parties.

With ever-shrinking fiscal resources and a rapidly increasing set of demands and priorities for the county, it is necessary to assess the extent to which other parties contribute to the successful implementation of the plan, and work as a team to this end.

Obviously, certain actions should be the sole responsibility of the county for implementation. However, there may be new ways of looking at a community's role, and incorporating various actions from the plan into the existing framework of community organizations and their activities. Rather than the traditional view of government "doing" for the citizens, this approach allows the community to "do" what it sees as important, with government's support and backing.

Private sector members who have a vested interest in the community should take some responsibility for plan implementation. Examples of key players are businesses represented in the community, and developers interested in projects in the community. A partnership should be created between business leaders and the county to implement certain relevant actions of the plan, and share the costs associated with those actions.

In each case, what is to be stressed is a new and creative approach to plan implementation that involves all those who benefit from this plan, and places the responsibility for fiscal resources, manpower, and time allocation on the appropriate party.

WOODLAWN/LIBERTY COMMUNITY PLAN GOALS

The following goals for this plan were developed by the community:

To improve the quality of life of all residents living within the boundaries of the Woodlawn/Liberty Community Plan;

To improve the image of the Woodlawn/Liberty community;

To improve the quality of education in the Woodlawn/Liberty community public schools;

To provide a stable community for all residents in the Woodlawn/Liberty communities;

To promote the Woodlawn/Liberty community as a good place to live and raise a family;

To develop a process to improve the delivery of services for all residents in the Woodlawn/Liberty Road Community Plan area;

To develop strategies to enhance the commercial viability of Woodlawn Village and the Liberty Road corridor;

To work with the commercial community to improve the image of commercial properties in the Woodlawn/Liberty Plan boundary;

To promote the Woodlawn/Liberty Community as an integrated community; and

To identify, enhance and protect the natural environment of the Woodlawn/Liberty community.

Plan Area

The Woodlawn/Liberty Community Plan area includes ten census tracts (4011.02, 4012.00, 4023.04, 4023.05, 4024.03, 4024.04, 4024.05, 4031.00, 4032.01, 4032.02) bounded by Milford Mill Road and the metro line on the north; I-70 to the south; Baltimore City line to the east; and Baltimore County Beltway (I-695) on the west. The plan area has an estimated 1990 population of 26,320 persons and covers a land area of approximately 4,387 acres (6.9 square miles).

WOODLAWN/ LIBERTY COMMUNITY PLAN

Map 2

PLAN AREA

Legend:

Census Tract Boundary



SCALE IN FEET

